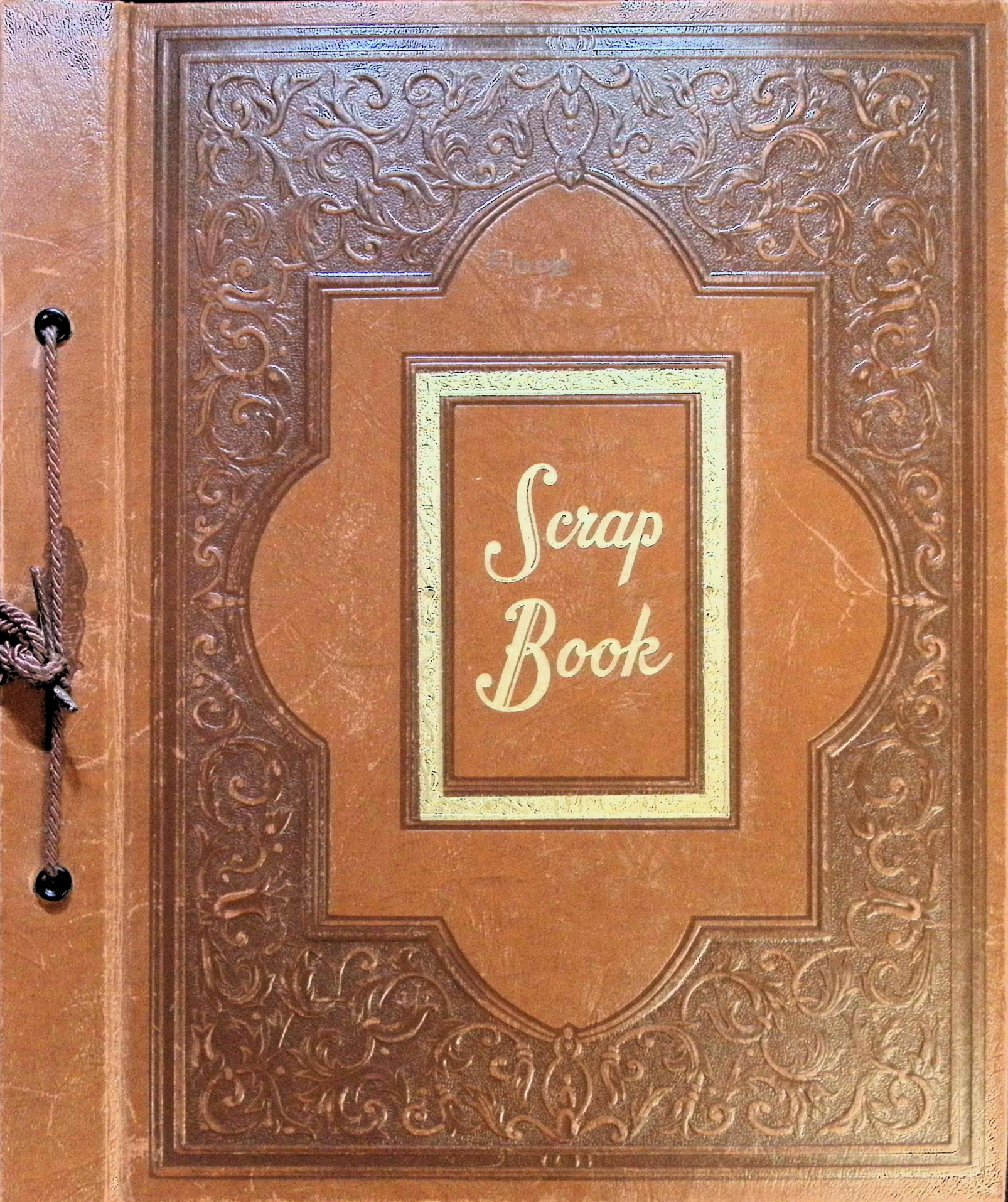

Scrap
Book

Flood

March 1953

Seagoing Truck Plows Over Saco Street

This is how Irving street in Saco looked Friday afternoon. This morning there was even more water. In the above picture a telephone company truck is sailing along the waterlogged street.

Saco Residents Take To Boats

Irving street residents in Saco manned rowboats last night and today in order to reach their homes, which were surrounded by water when the Saco river overflowed its banks. Most of Irving street was flooded today.

Biddeford Journal Engraving

Rampaging Saco River Still Rising; Rains Continuing

Rescue Groups Alerted; Many Homes Inundated

Ten families in the Maple street section of Biddeford fled their homes Friday night as the Saco river reached flood stage and approached the first floor level of their houses.

The river was still rising this morning at the rate of about an inch an hour and continuing rains in the upper reaches of the river near Ossipee, N. H., gave prospect of a continued rise as long as the rain keeps up, according to Cecil Clark of the Central Maine Power Company.

Flood waters had completely surrounded some houses on Irving street in Saco and some families were evacuated last night and this morning. Boats were being used for transportation on Irving street where most cellars were flooded and back yards inaccessible except by boat.

First victim of the rising waters was apparently Miss Antoinette Desnoyers whose house stands on the river bank on Maple street. She left home Friday morning and when she returned in the afternoon was unable to enter. She was the first case of hardship reported to the Biddeford Red Cross chapter headquarters Friday.

Other families in surrounding Maple street houses made hasty

Maine's Worst Floods In Years Nearing Crests

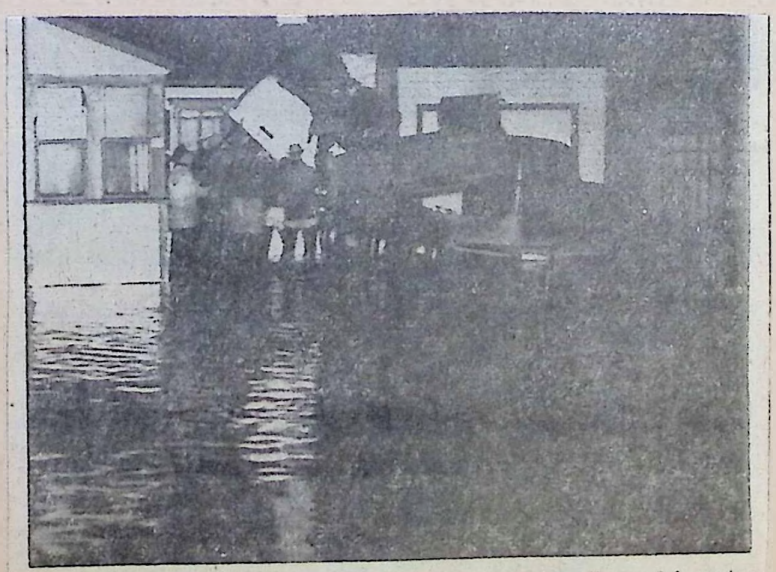
More Rainfall Adds To Misery

Portland, March 28—(AP)—The Androscoggin, carrying perhaps the heaviest load of any rain-swollen river, forced closing of the Topsham-Brunswick bridge today, cutting one of the state's major highway arteries as Maine's worst floods in 17 years neared their crests.

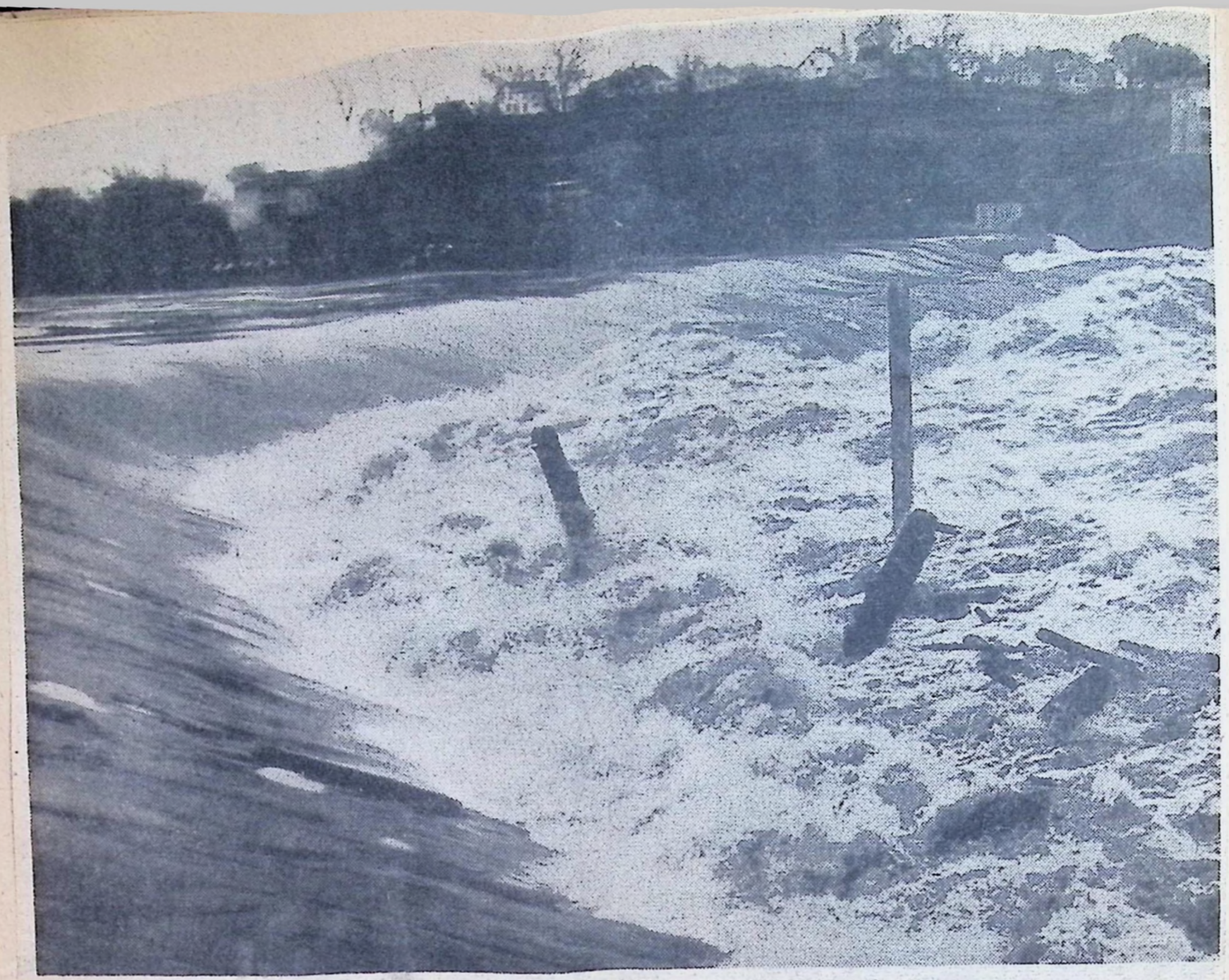
At Lewiston, police re-opened the North bridge between that city and Auburn. Apparently the Androscoggin had crested there without major trouble.

Light rain showers fell in the flood areas—Western and Central Maine. Ernest W. G. Kliemann, chief at the U. S. Weather Bureau here, said the heavy rain was over.

At Rumford, where more than



In the above picture firemen are shown carrying the refrigerator out of the home of Police Officer Alfred Ledoux on Maple street. Biddeford firemen set up portable floodlights and assisted several families in evacuating their homes on Maple street early this morn-



Flood Giant At Play

Water roars over the dam in the Kennebec River at Augusta Friday tossing 20-foot logs into the air and bringing back memories of 1936 floods. Water flooded more than nine feet over the top of the dam and was 19 feet above summer normal below the dam. (Kennebec Journal Photo)

Boys could still ride bicycles on Maple street Friday afternoon as water flooded the street in front of the home of Police Officer Alfred Ledoux. At midnight Biddeford firemen were helping Ledoux evacuate after the water had risen higher and forced several other families in the area to get out.

Nearly 100 Saco Families Facing Evacuation Today

1,200 Driven From Homes At Mexico; Transportation And Industry Disrupted

Western Maine gurgled in flood waters this morning.

Saturated soil poured new rains off into choking rivers, and the rivers sent their silty waters into homes and stores.

Raging river waters drove 1,200 persons from their homes in the Rumford-Mexico area Friday, while in Biddeford-Saco nearly 100 families faced evacuation early today.

Floodlights glared over Spring's Island in Biddeford this morning as emergency Fire Department apparatus and volunteers aided the exodus.

IT WAS EXPECTED that 40 of 150 families would be forced to flee the island which lies in the Saco River between the twin cities.

AT SACO, itself, officials estimated that 50 more families would have to flee their homes in the Lincoln and Irving Street area before noon today.

Central Maine Power Company observers at Saco

More Flood Pictures On Page 12

estimated another two and one-half foot rise in the river by noon. And "that means evacuation."

Early today police closed the North Bridge at Lewiston, main link between the Lewiston-Auburn business districts.

Officials ordered the span closed as flood waters lapped to within inches of its bottom.

EARLY THIS MORNING the still-rising Androscoggin was slapping the bottom of the Brunswick - Topsham bridge and was flowing across Route 201 about 50 yards north of the Topsham end. Brunswick police said the bridge might have to be closed before daybreak.

It was a serious flood, one that already had claimed one life and robbed the people of much wealth.

Still it was far short of the spring tragedy of 1936, when ice plugged the river valleys. This time there was not enough ice to matter.

Rain-Swollen Streams Force Many In New England To Evacuate Homes

Floods Worst Since 1936, Damage May Be In Millions

Boston, March 27. (AP)—Swelled by three days' torrential spring rains, New England streams rose swiftly today, forcing hundreds of families from their homes, causing thousands of dollars damage and isolating many small communities.

The floods were the worst since 1936. Fears were expressed the damage might approach the figure of that year when Maine counted five dead and 25 million dollars losses. Damage in other New England States was not so severe.

THE UNUSUALLY heavy rain quickened the melting of snow in the higher reaches of the White and Green Mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont. To hold back the runoff, army engineers put into use all eight flood control reservoirs on the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers.

Hardest hit were Mexico and Rumford in Maine and Plymouth, Holderness, Ossipee and Conway in New Hampshire.

Portions of lowland communities were under water in Western Massachusetts.

Numerous railroad branch lines were washed out or under water but no main lines were reported damaged.

THE RED CROSS flew disaster-trained personnel to New Hampshire from Washington in an air force plane and mobilized all its chapters along the Connecticut and Androscoggin Rivers. Additional Red Cross units went to Maine from New York.

The coast guard also prepared to send amphibious trucks to inundated areas.

SURGING WATERS from the major New Hampshire rivers—Connecticut, Merrimack and Pemigewasset—and their tributaries rolled over 24 highways in that state and forced families to leave their homes.

Thirty New Hampshire families were known to have been forced from their homes in Holderness and two score at Plymouth.

Boston and Maine Railroad spokesmen described conditions throughout New Hampshire and Maine as the worst in a decade.

Traffic north from Concord, N. H., was virtually at a standstill.

Trains for Montreal and other Canadian points were rerouted through Fitchburg, Mass., Keene, N. H., Bellows Falls, Vt., to White River Junction, Vt., and thence north over the Central Vermont System.

The Concord, N. H., weather bureau expressed the opinion that conditions would become no worse provided the rain stopped.

In Western Masachusetts, the Connecticut River rose an inch an hour. It was expected to go 3 feet over flood stage Saturday night or early Sunday.

WHILE LOWLANDS of at least five communities in that area were inundated, the Connecticut was expected to pass through Holyoke without causing serious damage.

Specially constructed flood walls were expected to keep the turbulent stream generally within bounds.

Army engineers put into use all its eight reservoirs in the basins of the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers.

The largest reservoir at Franklin Falls, N. H., on the Pemigewasset was reported about 35 per cent filled. The use of this one and two other in the Merrimack basin were expected to reduce substantially river levels farther down stream.

Two other reservoirs are the Blackwater on the Blackwater River about 12 miles northwest of Concord, N. H., and the Edward Macdowell on Nubanusit Brook, about a half mile north of West Peterborough, N. H.

Officials at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N. H., began the spring vacation today, a day early so students could get away ahead of rising waters.

THE VERMONT legislature adjourned soon after it was reported water was cascading over Wilder Dam on the White River, just above White River Junction, at a rate 5,000 cubic feet faster than on Thursday.

The White River — whose normal depth is one foot — was reported to be 18 and a half feet deep at sundown and rising. Officials said ten homes on the north bank in White River Junction "are in grave danger."

On the south bank, the offices of the Shell Refining Co.'s bulk plant were ordered evacuated and the big buildings were surrounded by swirling waters. No damage was reported.

The main street of Enfield, N. H., about ten miles [illegible]

Flooded Stream Damages Wilton

Swift waters of Wilson Stream undermine Main Street at Wilton. Store cellars were flooded. Firemen chained the bridge in the background to a maple tree on the Universalist Church lawn.

The home of Newton Harnden, Davis Court, Wilton is undermined by the stream. Firemen are carrying furniture from the Harnden home. (Photos by Maguire)

The water was deep and cold at the Intervale, Farmington. Reginald Laughton, junior at Farmington State Teachers College, is the youth who found that out.

Farmington Is Flooded

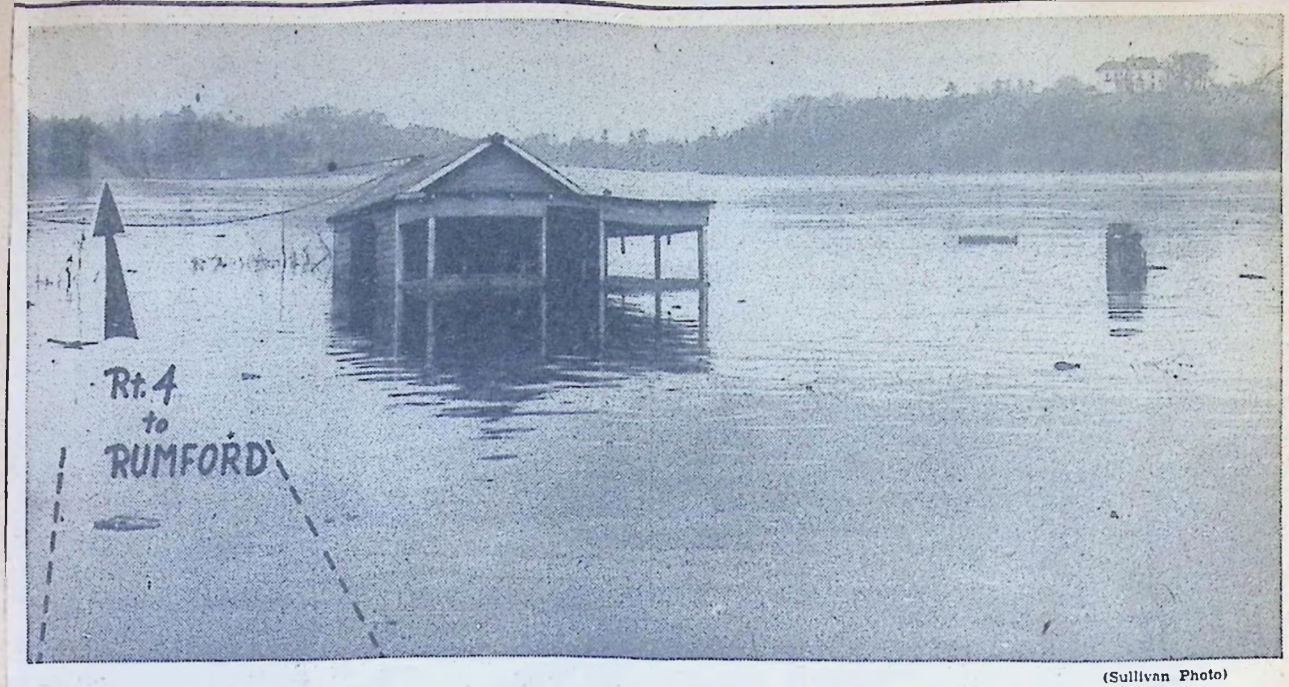
Kenneth Burbank, left, and Herbert Parlin, both of Farmington, used a boat to transport goods to dry land. They are on Lower Main Street. (Maguire Photos)

River Stay 'Way

Homes at Methuen, Mass., are threatened by rising waters of the Merrimac River as New England streams rose swiftly Friday forcing hundreds of families to flee. Flood conditions developed after several days of heavy rain. (AP Photo)

(Photo by Ed Kelley, Globe Staff)

STREET SCENE IN PLYMOUTH, N. H., AS FLOOD WATERS REACHED PEAK



(Sullivan Photo)

NO WAY TO RUMFORD—Gas station on main highway between Auburn, Me., and Rumford, Me., floats as Androscoggin River flooded area.

GIN as it appeared from br
ground) were pushed onto tr

David Hammond and the latter's energetic wife, Elizabeth, for their yeomen efforts.

IT ON YOUR OLD FURNITURE AT KANES!
COVERINGS . . . REGARDLESS OF
AND SAVE MANY DOLLA
s great trade-in sale. YOU
n suite . . . $50 for your old
any trade-
LIBERAL
IN ALLOWANCE
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IN ALLOWANCE
ROOM SET

Kennebec Journal Photo

LUMBER DAMAGED—Swiftly rising waters of the Kennebec River spilled over the banks at Hallowell into the yard of Builders Supply Company. Here is part of more than 200,000 board feet of lumber owned by the firm and damaged by flood waters.

Photo By Hall

BRIDGE CLOSED—Park Street Bridge at South Paris is closed to traffic on Route 26. Here the rushing flood waters block out any signs of the streets leading to the bridge. Water is several feet deep reaching up over hub caps of those parked cars.

By Staff Photographer Maguire

DAM BREAKS — The normally-placid Fairbanks Stream at Farmington was turned into a swollen giant by heavy rains. Here, hidden by that bulge of water at the upper left corner, is a dam broken by the weight of the water.

The N. E. Flood Picture

MAINE—Only one danger spot remains at Saco and Biddeford where Saco River will crest early this morning. Waters receding elsewhere. Still more than 1000 homeless in Rumford, Mexico, Lewiston and Auburn on Androscoggin River. Damage estimates: Mexico, $200,000; Rumford, $100,000; Lewiston and Auburn, $100,000. Damage on Kennebec estiated at $250,000. It will be several days before homes can be reoccupied by flood victims. Health officials readying for major task.

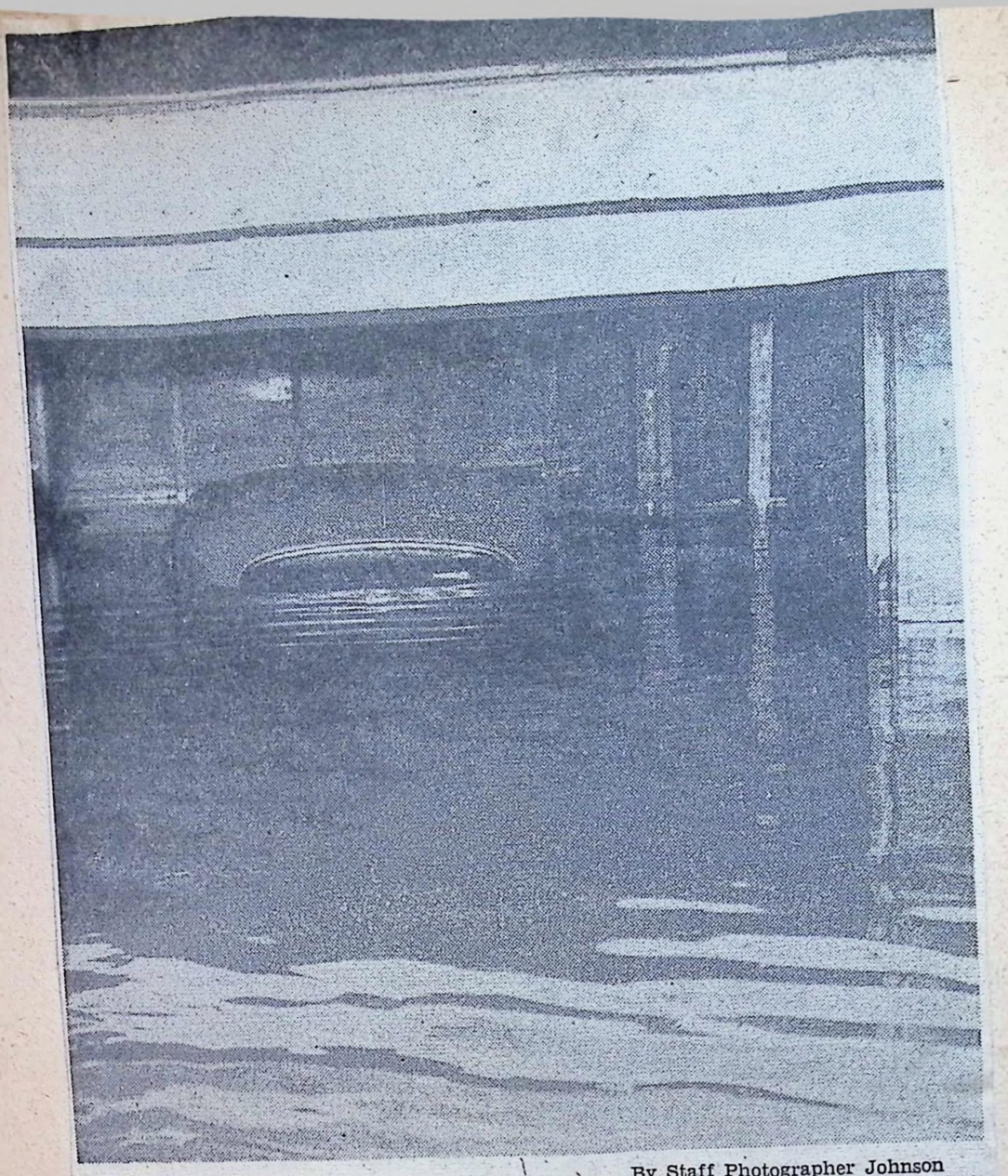
NEW HAMPSHIRE—Waters of Merrimac tributaries receding. Still many homeless in Plymouth-Holderness area. Roads in terrible shape and repair crews working through night to make temporary repairs. Damage around $100,000. Train service still affected by washouts.

MASSACHUSETTS — Saved from all but minor flooding on Connecticut and Merrimac by Army dams. Only few families still homeless. Greatest damage, estimated at $50,000, to cellars of industries facing rivers.

VERMONT—Damage chiefly to roads. Repair crews at work.

CONNECTICUT—Minor flooding on Connecticut. Dams avert millions of dollars damage.

RHODE ISLAND—Sitting pretty.



By Staff Photographer Johnson

WILL IT RUN?—That's the obvious question confronting the owner of this car shown all but covered by water in a garage on Newberry Street in New Auburn. The low-lying section was hard-hit by the flooded Androscoggin River.

Danger From Flood-Swollen N. E. Rivers Believed Over As Waters Recede Slowly

Boston, March 28. (AP) — Most — but not all — northern New England rivers receded slowly today after raging over their banks for more than 24 hours under the wild impetus of a three-day rainstorm.

The roaring waters lessened their furious rush as the rain halted but left 13 Maine communities isolated and 1,500 persons homeless.

Saco Out Of Bounds

The Saco River still pounded out of bounds tonight as it moved toward a midnight crest and 50 families in the Biddeford area abandoned their homes as a precaution.

New Hampshire, which had 25 highways inundated Friday reported only ten were closed this afternoon. Officials said the over-all situation was improving gradually.

No additional heavy rainfall was anticipated by the weather bureau for the week end.

While the slowly dropping rivers still hold secret the extent of the damage they caused, the New England division of army engineers credits the network of flood control dams and reservoirs with preventing a possible loss of $12,000,000.

Connecticut At Peak

Springfield, Mass., said the Connecticut River reached a peak of 18.5 feet — a foot and a half below flood stage. On the Merrimack, the Essex Co., which controls water power at Lawrence, Mass., said the river in the Lowell-Lawrence area did not hit flood stage.

The army engineers said all pumping stations in Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee and Northampton are in operation to keep the areas behind the dikes dry.

The Connecticut River dropped considerably in New Hampshire during the day and railroad traffic took on a semblance of normal routine at mid-day. The Boston & Maine was able to make its usual run from Boston to Montreal by way of Concord and Woodsville, N. H.

12 Families Return Home

A dozen families in the Beebe River area in New Hampshire were able to return to their homes and 15 family groups in Ossipee also got back to their own houses.

The automobile of Gov. Hugh Gregg was nearly swamped when he made a tour of the hard-hit section near Plymouth, N. H. His chauffeur attempted to ford a flooded stretch of highway but the motor sputtered and failed. The governor and Frank Merrill, the chauffeur, wearing hip boots, managed to open the door and step to higher ground. Water poured into the car.

At Hartford, Conn., where flood stage is 16 feet, the Connecticut reached 23.5 feet and was expected to go to 25 before cresting. Lowlands are flooded but no damage was reported. The Red Cross evacuated six families in Cromwell, between Hartford and Middletown.

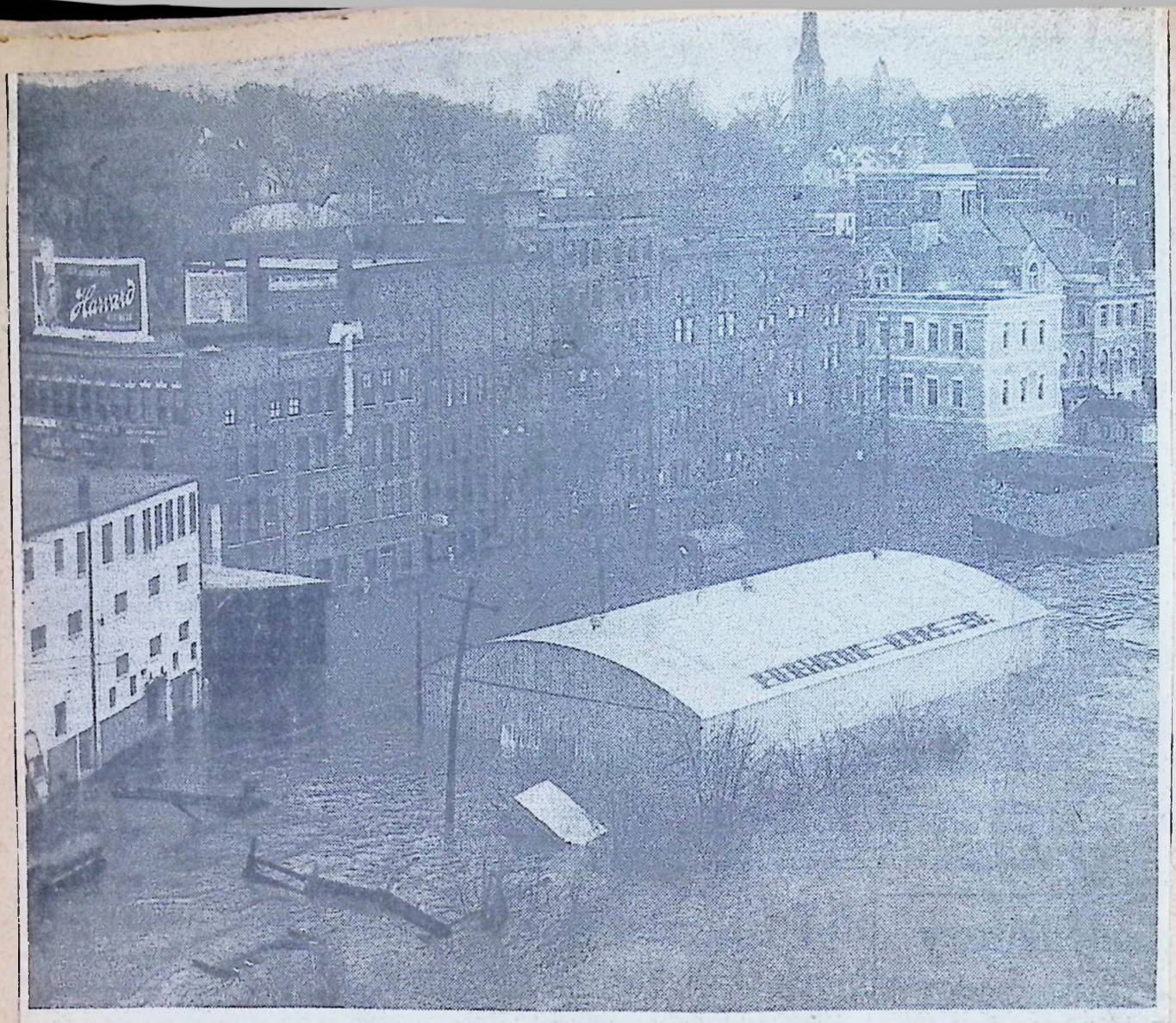
In Massachusetts, Gov. Christian A. Herter's office announced he has asked Public Safety Commissioner Otis M. Whitney "to alert the state police" in this flood situation throughout Massachusetts. The announcement said the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has already been alerted.

Photo By Wigley

POWER STATION ENDANGERED—Heavy water pressure from the flood-swollen Androscoggin threatened for a time this Central Maine sub-station at Brunswick. Workmen sandbagged the inside walls of the station and manned six pumps.

By Staff Photographer Johnson

ANDROSCOGGIN RAMPAGE—The mighty Androscoggin River was a boiling mass of foam as flood level waters raced over the rocks at this set of rapids in the river near Auburn. Water was flowing at 90,000 cubic feet a second at the flood's height.



Kennebec Journal Photo

KENNEBEC AT FLOOD—The mighty Kennebec burst its banks at Augusta Saturday. This picture shows just how badly. Purrington Brothers building is in the foreground. Others are the backs of Water Street business establishments.

WASHED OUT STREET—Swift rushing water of Wilson Stream gouged out a 100-foot section of Wilton's main street. Firemen prevented further erosion by plugging the hole with sand bags and dumping fill from a nearby gravel pit.

AP Wirephoto

By Staff Photographer Hennessy

Flood damaged home of Adelard St. Pierre on Water Street, Brunswick, is checked via rowboat secured by line to telephone pole. The raging Androscoggin River tore the ell off St. Pierre's home. The building tips toward camera because of weight of power tools inside the building.

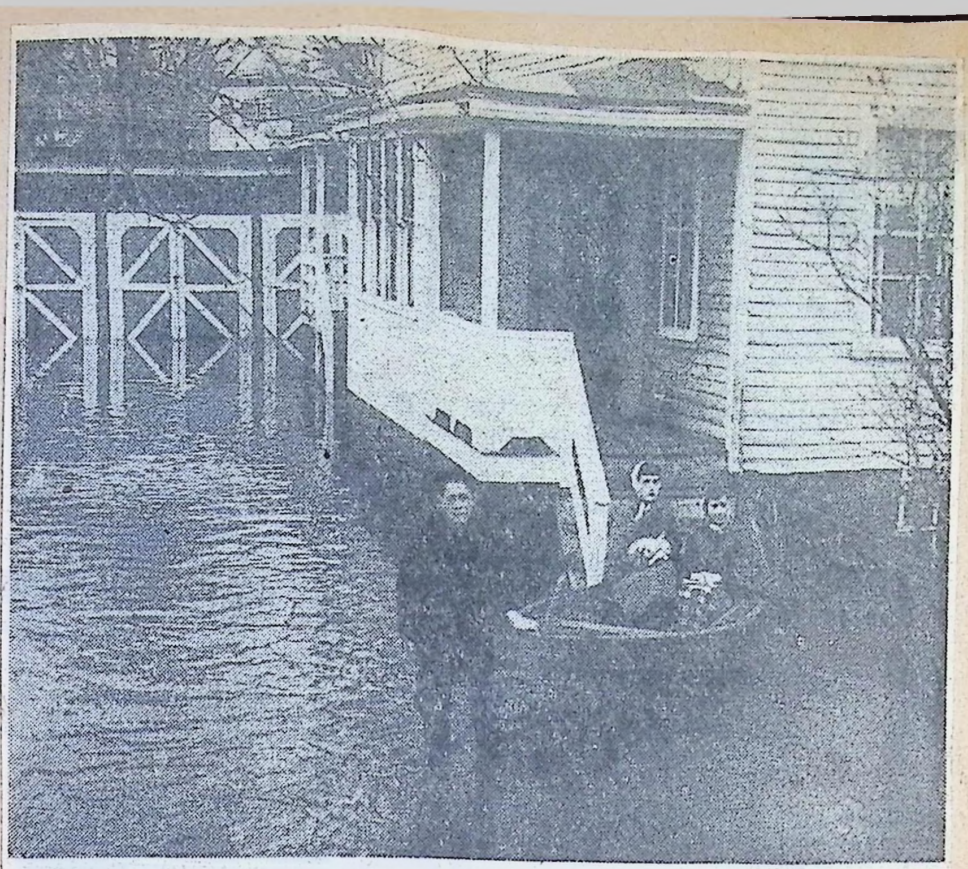
March 29 -

By Staff Photographer Shepard

AND IN AUBURN—Auburn and Lewiston had their share of flood trouble too from a rain-swollen Androscoggin River. Spectators were out in force Saturday afternoon to view scenes like this Center Street litter.

By Staff Photographer Whitcomb

CHIEF TURNS SKIPPER—Saco Fire Chief Arthur E. Emmons helps Mrs. Romeo Cote into the rescue boat that carried family of five to higher ground when their Irving Street home was ordered evacuated.



By Staff Photographer Whitcomb

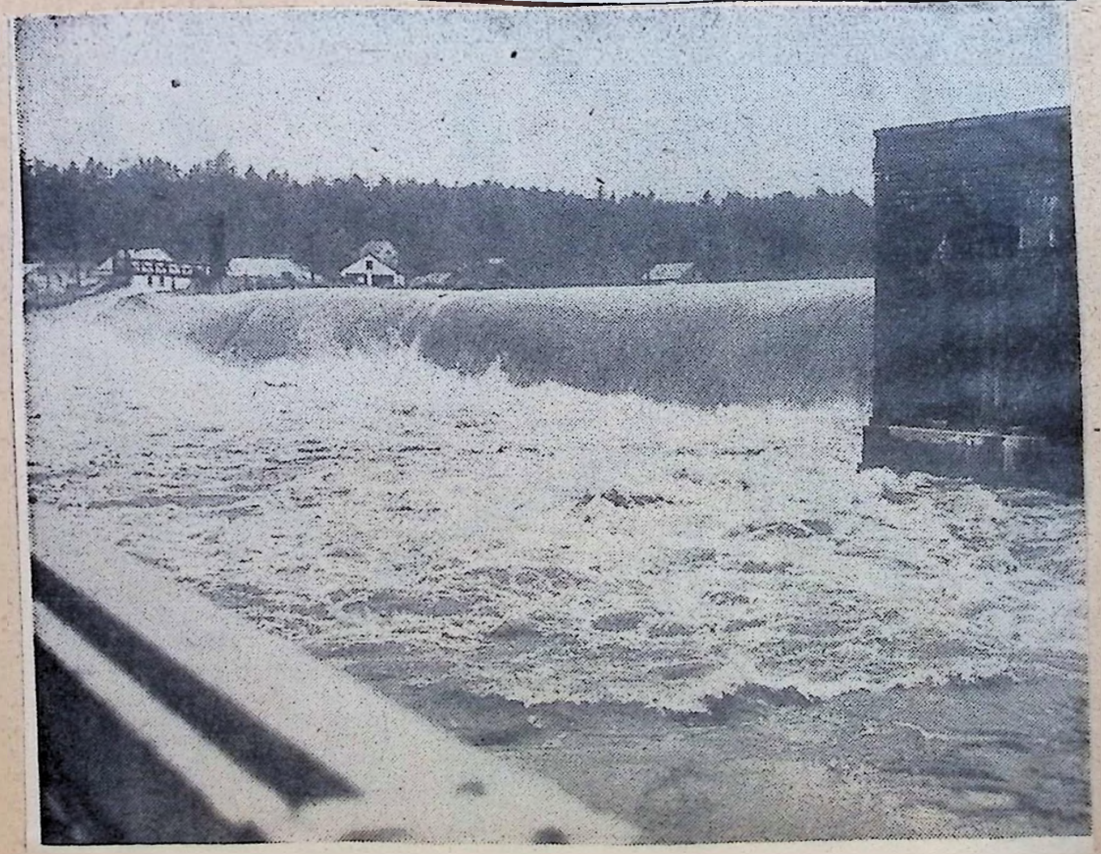
WATER TAXI IN ORDER—Water taxi service was the order of the day on Irving Street in Saco. Here Rita and Antoinette Chorenzy of 16 Irving Street get a ride from their neighbor, ten-year-old Raymond Dube.

By Staff Photographer Hennessy

PUMPING STATION ISOLATED—Critical point Saturday in Brunswick's battle against rampant Androscoggin was the town's water pumping station, above, with a Navy weasel from Brunswick Air Station just landing (foreground) after an emergency trip to the isolated building. Against the power station (back of pole) is a Navy duck on which portable pumps were carried to help fight to keep vital pumps in operation.

Firemen Guide Floating Building

Firemen attempt to push one of two small buildings under the Market Street Bridge between Saco and Biddeford after the flooding Saco River had washed the structures from Irving Street in Saco. (Photo by Perkins)



Water nine and one-half feet deep poured over the Saco River Dam at West Buxton, Sunday afternoon where normally the gates take care of the overflow. Nearby Route 112 was closed and several families forced to flee their homes. (Scott

Saco Floods West Buxton Street

The Saco River takes over the main street in West Buxton Village Sunday.

Governor Views Flood Scene

Harry Mapes (right), York County Civilian Defense director, shows Gov. Burton M. Cross a flooded section in Biddeford's Maple Street vicinity. (Photo by Perkins)

New England Mops Up, Waits New Onslaughts

Boston, March 29. (AP) — Northern New England mopped up today after the worst floods since 1936 and folks downstream girded for new onslaughts by rampaging rivers.

THE WEATHER BUREAU forecast a new storm heading into the drenched region with the heaviest rainfall expected in southern sections.

The areas that appear threatened by new floods are the Southern Connecticut River valley in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut, the Merrimack Valley in Northeast Massachusetts and the Biddeford, Me., area around the mouth of the Saco River.

The big Connecticut River in Western Masachusetts and Connecticut began receding today after cresting at 25 feet in Hartford and 18.5 feet in Springfield, Mass., but its tributaries are expected to rise tonight with new rainfall.

A crew of 80 men threw up a hasty wall of 3,600 sand bags at Bar Mills, Sunday in an attempt to stem the flooding waters of the Saco River. The basement and first floor machine shops of the Rogers Fiber Mill, above, were flooded by the swirling water. The mill was forced to shut down Thursday evening. (Dearborn Photo)

Scenes Along The Rampaging Saco

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholal Peterson of 28 Elm Street, Biddeford, step ashore with part of their belongings after being removed Sunday afternoon from their inundated home by volunteer rescue workers. (Photo by

Route 1 Flooded At Saco

The Saco River floods four blocks of U. S. Route 1 in Saco Sunday. Traffic was rerouted. (Photo by Perkins)

Rampaging Saco River:

(Continued from Page One)

The Bar Mills situation was reported "still serious" Sunday night by Town Clerk Charles L. Woods.

Water seeped into four large buildings in the main part of the small business section.

Woods reported that although it was raining Sunday night, the river hadn't risen appreciably since early afternoon.

Everard Atkinson removed all the stock from his variety store on the first floor of the telephone building. The water had reached up to the first floor.

Two telephone operators there were marooned in the building overnight Saturday.

The Rogers Fiber Plant in Bar Mills was shut down.

The firm employes 90 persons. It is not expected to resume operations for a week.

There were no homes in immediate danger of the floodwaters, Woods said. Extra crews worked feverishly to fill bags brought by William Punsky from Portland under State Police es-

Mexico and Rumford. Those towns had been isolated for nearly three days.

At Hiram and East Hiram, three boats were transporting supplies.

State Police patrolled all roads leading into the Saco-Biddeford area.

They reported the Elm Street Bridge linking the two cities was impassable.

Route 25 between Kezar Falls and Porter was reported blocked.

Watkins Bridge on Route 302, east of Fryeburg was closed because of the washed out road approach. Police were rerouting Fryeburg-bound traffic via Route 35 from Naples.

Other roads reported impassable included Routes 202 and 4 in Bar Mills; Route 160 between Brownfield and Denmark; Route 5 and 113 between East Brownfield and Fryeburg.

The floods, Maine's worst in 17 years, thus far have claimed

Early this morning, officials at the Cataract Power Station in Biddeford-Saco, reported that the river apparently had crested at 56.4 feet. This mark was recorded at 2 p. m. Sunday and had not changed 11 hours later.

Normal height of the river is 49 feet, officials said.

At Saco, York County Civil Defense Chief Col. Harry E. Mapes estimated 350 persons had evacuated their homes. Late Sunday night some families "left by their own choice. They apparently became frightened," he said.

SACO EVACUEES who didn't move in with relatives and friends were being housed in the Saco Armory. Biddeford flood victims were being cared for in Pepperell Hall.

Several miles up the river, at Bar Mills, the river was reported to be still rising.

Gov. Burton M. Cross, on the scene of the flooding river, said Sunday afternoon that Civil Defense, Saco and Biddeford and Red Cross officials had the situation "well in hand."

He reported that although the condition was serious, it wasn't dangerous enough for him to issue an emergency proclamation.

"Everything is being done" in Saco "that would be accomplished under an emergency proclamation,' the State's chief executive said.

He surveyed the Saco area with Mapes Sunday afternoon.

Mapes and his staff moved York County Headquarters from Alfred to Saco early this morning.

A CRUSH OF SIGHTSEEING motorists hampered workers in the area most of the day.

Police closed off Saco and Biddeford to all but through traffic.

munists rejected the Indian compromise plan to break the prisoner exchange deadlock by referring the fate of prisoners who refused repatriation to a peace conference following an armistice.

IF THE Communists new feelings mean that Moscow and the Peiping governments now have decided they want peace in Korea, American military men want to know why before they rush into any settlement at

Clark and his senior armistice

Headquarters sources said all truce settlement.

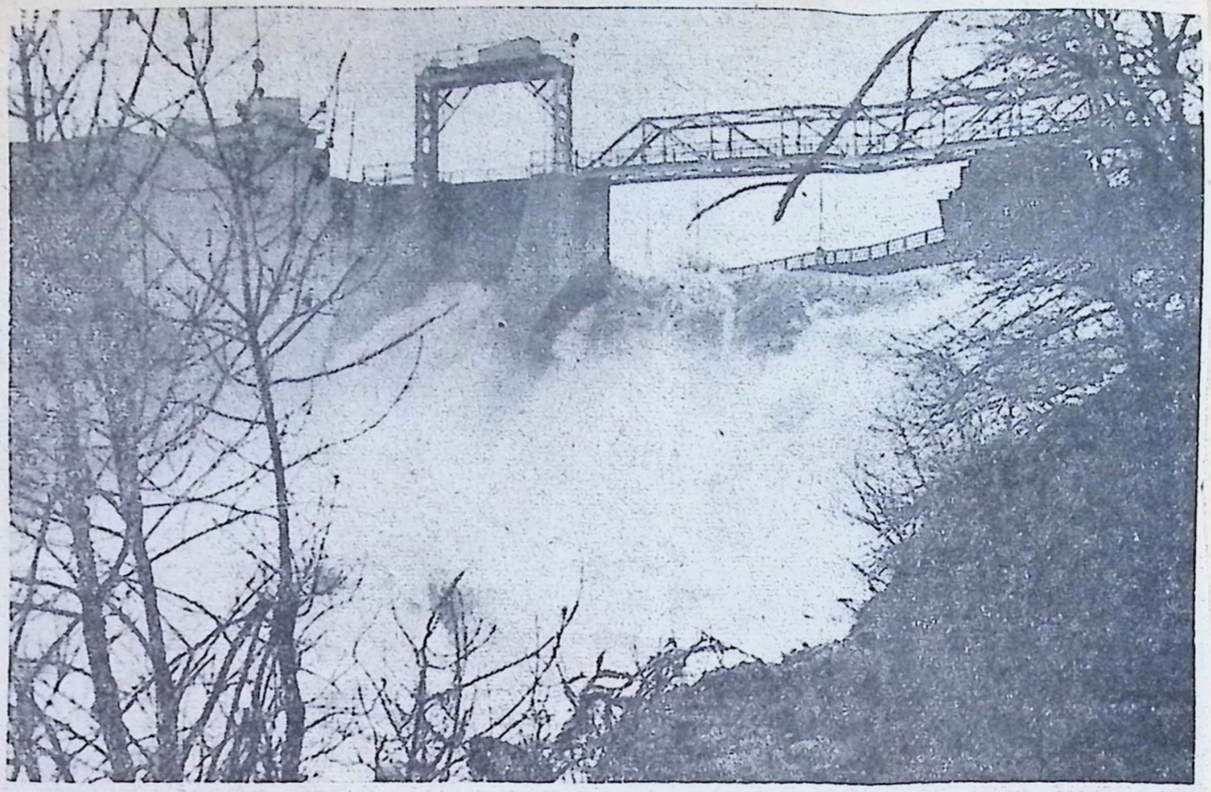
mats over prospects for an over- more cautious than Allied diplo- armistice sessions and were far again during 16 months of futile their hopes shattered time and

American officials have had

jom.

Allied prisoners of war. In agree- ing to the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners, the Commu- nists also asked for resumption of the truce talks at Panmun-

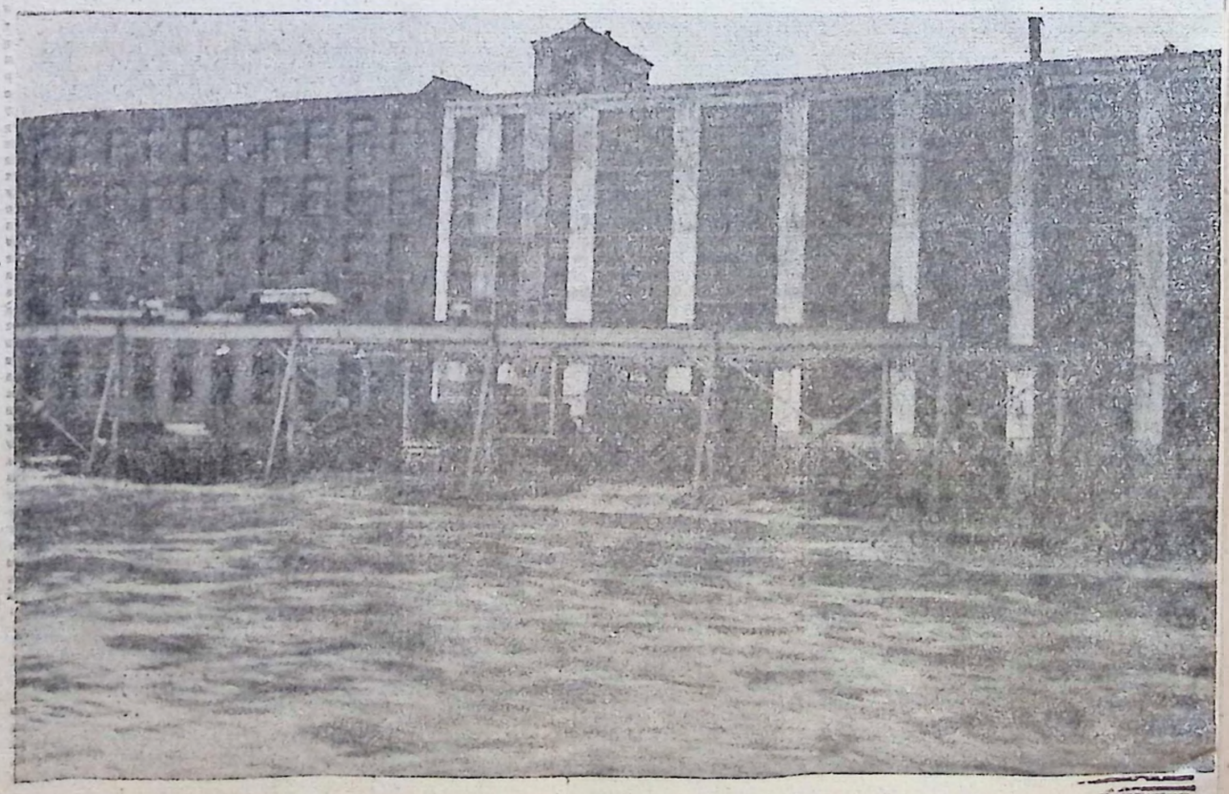
Flood Waters Pour Over Dam



One of the biggest crowd pullers is the Cataract dam between Biddeford and Saco where flood water pounds against the power house like storm-tossed surf and plunges down with a great roar amidst giant clouds of spray. Policemen were put on duty on Main street to speed up mototrists who were slowing up long lines of traffic in both directions.

Biddeford Journal Engraving

Yard At Saco-Lowell Shops Flooded



Water poured into the yard of the Biddeford division of Saco-Lowell shops here yesterday and this morning was even higher. Company workers placed sandbags at first floor entrances.

Biddeford Journal Engraving

Garage Floats As River Rises

Hre's how the rear of houses on Irving street, Saco, looked to a Journal photographer yesterday afternoon. The garage in the foreground has been turned over while water completely covered fences and bulkheads. Photo was taken from the Somesville bridge.

Flood Sends 500 From Lowland; Industries Close

Situation Still Critical; Saco Farms Isolated

New Crests Imperil Dam In Saco Basin

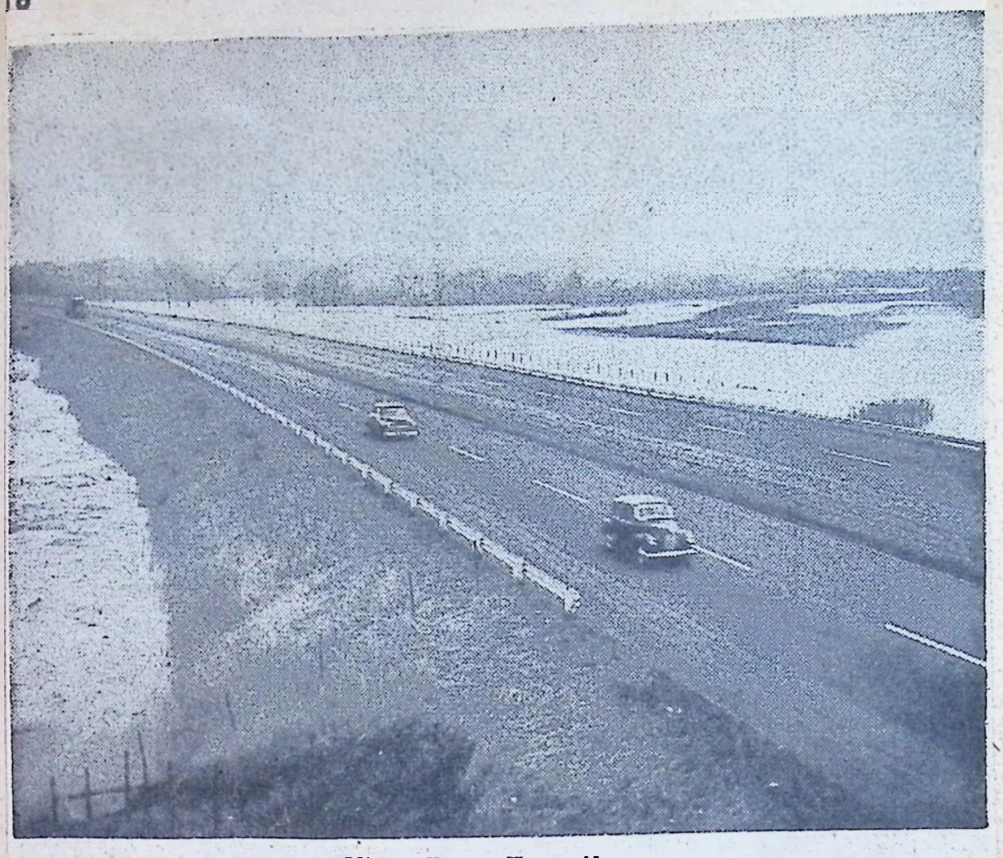
Center Ossipee, N. H., March 30. (AP)—Emergency crews stood by to evacuate families for a second time tonight as rains filled rivers in the Ossipee section to new crests and threatened a repetition of last Friday's inundation.

The State Public Works Department reported the Bearcamp River rising at a rate of an inch an hour in the area hardest hit by flood torrents a few days ago.

FEARS WERE expressed that a power dam at Effingham Falls on Lake Ossipee—which developed a leak in the last flood,—might not withstand new onslaughts of raging water.

A public works spokesman said emergency repairs had been made on the dam but added that the "unbelievably terrific power" of the waters might break through the structure endangering families in both New Hampshire and Maine.

The rain stopped in the early evening but the Weather Bureau forecast that more would fall on the drenched and harried area tonight and possibly into Tuesday.



View From Turnpike

Waters of the Saco River provide a "sea" view along the Maine Turnpike Monday as they flood a lowland area of the inland route. The Saco River was subsiding slowly Monday night in Maine's worst flood threat in 17 years. (AP Photo)

Washout Along Kennebec

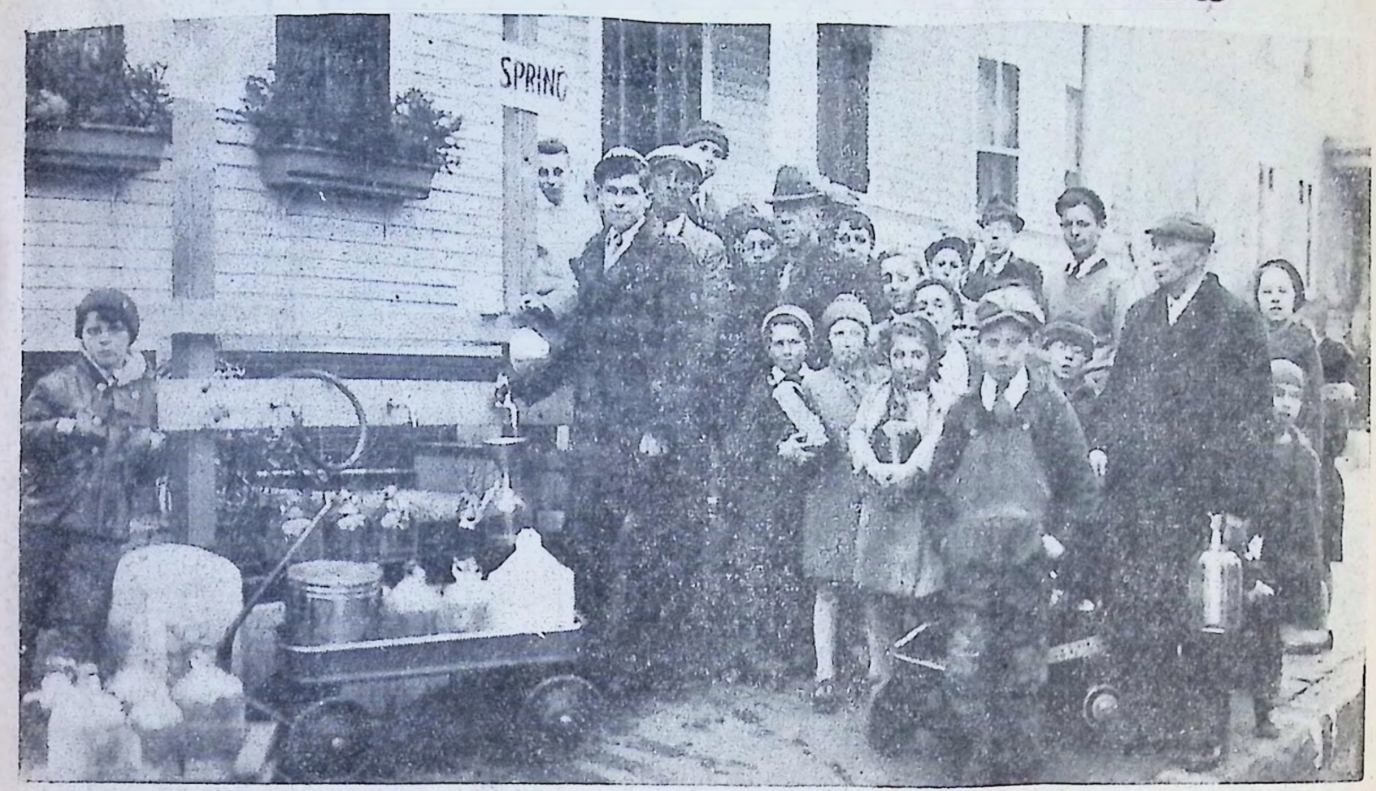
Maine Central Railroad worker Henry Lessard, Waterville, surveys washout which has disrupted railroad service between Augusta and Waterville. Some 110 feet of embankment slid into Kennebec River at Island Curve, four miles north of Augusta. (Kennebec Journal Photo)

The Saco is falling, but its waters still isolate many homes along its valley. These homes along the River Road at West Buxton were still flooded this morning.

Gannett Air Photos by Shepard

So, too, were these homes along Irving Street, Saco, just up-river from the Market Street Bridge which connects Spring Island with the Saco shore.

Way Back When--In Biddeford



Even a fellow with a short memory who was around in 1936 will recall this familiar sight which was multiplied in many parts of both cities on the occasion of the big brother to the flood which has been plaguing the area for the past week. When the river overflowed its banks and flooded the pumping station, the drinking water became contaminated and was declared unfit to drink. Wells which had been filled were reopened and many others located. It was on this occasion that Felix T. Sheltra discovered that, among his other accomplishments, he was also a water dowser. Browsing around his cellar with a twig in his hands one day, the branch started to jerk and point to a spot on the ground. He hired a couple of lumpers who proceeded to dig to a depth of about 10 feet and were then determined to quit, but Mr. Sheltra coaxed them to keep digging a few more feet, feeling certain that they would strike water. They finally struck it at 12 feet. He purchased a pump from a Bar Mills distributor and hired Ray Whitehead and Oscar Grondin, local plumbers, to make the installation. He piped three faucets to the sidewalk in front of his house and dispensed water to all and sundry for many days while the emergency continued. At times, lines of boys, girls and grown-ups extended as far as St. John's building on one side of his house, and to the city garage on the other. Among those here shown in the picture, the young lad at the extreme left looks like one of the Throumoulos boys, next in line Paul Upham, Paul Sheltra, —— Boucher, Carl Sheltra, Mr. Boisvert, Donald Farley on roller skates, Edith King, Paul Perron, —— Desrochers, —— O'Leary, and Mr. Sylvestre. The picture was taken exactly 17 years ago today.

Biddeford Journal Engraving

$500,000 Set Aside To Repair Damaged Roads

Augusta, April 2. (AP)—The Executive Council today approved transfer of $500,000 from the Highway Department's surplus to road maintenance funds to cover damage done by the floods.

Chief Highway Engineer Lucius D. Barrows said his staff is working to get an accurate picture of the damage, and may have one by next week.

"It seems to be more than we thought at first," he told a newsman. "We are getting reports of damage now from Aroostook County" in addition to that in Southern Maine watersheds.

The commission still is hopeful that damage to state and state-aid roads and bridges may not exceed the $500,000 figure, Barrows said. But he added that damage to town roads probably will be at least that high.

Biddeford-Saco Cleans House Following Flood

The long, tiresome job of cleaning homes, business places and streets was under way in earnest today as vctims of the worst flood since 1936 in Biddeford and Saco could begin for the first time to discover just how much damage occurred.

No official was ready to make even a guess at the overall loss, but evidence of bady damaged streets and sidewalks came to view as the flood waters rapidly receded. Losses to businesses and damage to private homes would not be fully calculated until the cleanup was over.

Route 1 was re-opened to through traffic Thursday evening after being closed since last Saturday night. The main artery was opened on the Biddeford side about 7:30 p. m. and on the Saco side at 8 p. m. yesterday.

Biddeford Civil Defense headquarters was closed down about midnight Thursday although some of the Civil Defense crew continued to work until 7 this morning. The job of pumping out cellars and washing down streets was turned over to firemen.

Saco Civil Defense director Clarence Holt was still on duty at the Saco headquarters of the organization in the basement of Dyer library. Holt reported that samples from all springs in Saco are being taken for shipment to Augusta where they will be tested for purity. The city water supply for both communities is adequate and is being more heavily chlorinated to prevent any possibility of contamination.

Holt pointed out that residents can't return to their homes to

— NOTICE —

SACO-LOWELL SHOPS

All Foundry employees are to report for work on their regular scheduled shifts tomorrow—Friday, April 3.

Maine Entitled To Flood Aid

(Press Herald Bureau)

Washington, April 3. — Flood-hit sections of Maine were declared disaster areas today by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

At the same time, Harry A. McDonald, RFC administrator, also declared similarly-hit New Hampshire sections disaster areas.

The edict means that persons suffering losses, either private or business, may apply to the RFC for reconstruction loans.

John H. Magee, district director of the Federal Housing Administration for Maine, announced that insured loans will be available through his office at Bangor.

Loans up to $7,000 for owners of destroyed property and up to $5,000 for property which can be repaired are available, Magee said. The loans will be made through private institutions, with the FHA insuring the loan to the bank, he said.

In Boston, Bernard F. O'Neil, acting manager of the RFC's New England Region, said he plans to send two men to Maine and one to New Hampshire to survey the flood damage and set up offices to handle loan applications.

Loans will be made to individuals at 3 per cent interest and to industry and commerce at 5 per cent, O'Neil said.

Maine's flood loss has been set at $10,000,000 by Gov. Burton M. Cross.

Floods At Glance

SACO RIVER: Down seven inches Tuesday night from its high Monday night. Seven-inch drop consistent from Hiram through Biddeford-Saco area to sea. Residents of area won't be allowed to enter their flood-soaked homes without permits from Civil Defense headquarters or health officers' okay.

OSSIPEE DAM: Water down, all in order, say Central Maine Power Company officials. Reports of threatened collapse of dam at Effingham Falls, N. H., are "unfounded," they reported.

KENNEBEC RIVER: Dropping. Reading at noon Tuesday was 60,000 cubic feet a second, down to 58,000 at 6 p. m., and still going down. Stores on Water Street, Augusta, still flooded.

ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER: Receding. Had dropped Tuesday night about eight feet from its high mark. Brunswick superintendent of schools banned school pupils from drinking town water at school Tuesday. Tests, however, show water safe, Public Utilities Commission officials said.

PENOBSCOT RIVER: On its way down.

STATE HIGHWAYS: State Police report 16 routes still closed.

Flood Scene Shifts North

Van Buren, April 3—(AP)—The ice-clogged St. John river chimed in to a roaring flood-time chorus of Maine streams subsiding today except in Aroostook county.

Four Keegan families, totalling 15 persons, were taken to safety when the St. John overflowed into lowlands.

The river's surge interrupted Canadian National Railways and Canadian Pacific Railways travel on a 12-mile stretch of track between St. Leonard and Edmunston, N. B., and caused a three-hour hiatus yesterday in traffic on the international bridge linking Van Buren with St. Leonard.

Farther north a log-handling rig at the Madawaska Long Lumber mill and 15 power poles were knocked out of commission with loss estimated unofficially at $12,000.